

FRUIT EATING BY THE GECKO *GEHYRA DUBIA* IN TOWNSVILLE. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 39(2): 364. 1996.-This note describes opportunistic observations of fruit-eating by *G. dubia* occupying a residence in suburban South Townsville. At approximately 1745hr on 14 March 1996 a *G. dubia* was observed feeding on ripe sugar bananas suspended within the residence. Individual bananas had ripened on the bunch and had partially detached, being suspended by one strip of peel only. The ripe flesh was exposed where the skin had given way, and it was on this flesh that the gecko was feeding; tearing large chunks of the fruit off with its mouth and consuming them. On three subsequent occasions, as the fruit became completely detached from the bunch and was stored on a kitchen table, geckoes were startled from amongst them although fruit consumption was never observed before the gecko(s)? took off in alarm. We do not know if they were the same or different individuals. No invertebrates were seen on the bananas at these times and we suspect that the geckoes were once again feeding on the fruit.

Greer (1989) summarised published observations of Gecko diet. Non-animal foods variously eaten by *Christinus guentheri*, *C. marmoratus*, *Heteronotia binoei* and *Lepidodactylus lugubris*, include sap, nectar, jam, honey and sugar. Couper et al. (1995) added to the list of sapfeeding

Geckos when they described sapfeeding by *Gehyra dubia* in the wild. The only published reference to fruit-eating by an Australian gecko that I am aware of is King & Horner's (1993) observation of *G. australis* feeding on pulpy fruit. As such, this note provides further evidence of fruit-eating by another species of Australian gecko in the wild.

Literature Cited

- Couper, P.J., Covacevich, J.A. & Wilson, S.K. 1995. Sap feeding by the Australian gecko *Gehyra dubia*. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 38(2): 396.
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- Scott Burnett & Jacqueline Nolen, 9 Nelson St, South Townsville 4810, Queensland; 23 April 1996.